

American Woodcock, Jack Snipe Brood and Hen Capture and Banding

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Three searches were conducted within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore boundaries for a total of 12 search hours. Searches were conducted mostly in young growth woodland edges defined by young Aspen, young Sugar Maple, Tag Alder, Dogwood, and other early successional forest habitat. Clonal Aspen sucker stands and young dense Sugar Maple stands are the most common habitat in which nesting and brooding woodcock were found. An average of 3 adult Woodcock were observed per hour of searching suitable woodcock habitat. Other, less suitable habitat is occasionally searched and typically yields a significantly lower average. No Woodcock or grouse anomalies were found. Woodcock were observed utilizing singing grounds, which are areas defined by field-type openings bordered by woodlands. Birds are observed singing at dusk and it is thought that knowledge of the location and numbers of birds participating in these courting rituals is helpful for determining where broods can be found during non-singing times. No data were collected regarding the singing ground surveys beyond that which was observed to be consistent in terms of previous years' recruitment index or numbers of birds participating. No bands were placed on woodcock hens or chicks during the 2005 research period within the SBDNL.